



UTAH FOUNDATION

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Report on Partisanship and Ideology in Utah Reveals Growing Divides *But Republicans, Unaffiliated Voters and Democrats Share Concern about K-12 Education*

(October 27, 2020) – Today, Utah Foundation releases the next installment in the Utah Priorities Project series: a report examining the partisan divide. *Red, Grey and Blue: The Issues that Unite and Divide Utah Voters* looks at how priorities differ across party and ideological lines and how those lines have shifted over time.

Among the findings of the report:

- The proportion of registered voters who are Republicans or Democrats have both increased, with Democrats increasing by roughly 50% since 2016. However, Republicans now make up half of registered voters, while only 15% are Democrats. (Unaffiliated voters make up most of the remainder.)
- There is close agreement among Republicans, unaffiliated voters and Democrats as to the relative importance of both K-12 education and housing affordability issues.
- Utah Foundation’s survey found that partisanship and division was a top-10 issue only for unaffiliated voters.
- Republicans have a higher level of concern about taxes, jobs and the economy, and growth management. They are also more worried about crime.
- Democrats have a higher level of concern about racial inequality or racism, public health and homelessness. They also have a higher level of concern about climate change.
- The median voter in Utah has become more liberal. This is due in large part to shifting views among unaffiliated voters and Democrats.
- Republicans and Democrats in Utah have become more polarized, mainly due to a shift further left among Democrats.

“There is a growing ideological divide between the political parties in Utah,” Utah Foundation President Peter Reichard said. “But there remains common ground on certain key issues facing Utah, providing opportunities for policy-making across a broad consensus.”

Special thanks to the **George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation**, the **Larry H. Miller Group of Companies** and **Y2 Analytics** for supporting the Utah Priorities Project. The brief is available at www.utahfoundation.org.

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Founded in 1945, Utah Foundation's mission is to produce objective, thorough and well-reasoned research and analysis that promotes the effective use of public resources, a thriving economy, a well-prepared workforce and a high quality of life for Utahns. Utah Foundation seeks to help decision-makers and citizens understand and address complex issues. Utah Foundation also offers constructive guidance to improve governmental policies, programs and structures.

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