



STATE OF UTAH

Office of the Legislative Auditor General

315 HOUSE BUILDING • PO BOX 145315 • SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114-5315
(801) 538-1033 • FAX (801) 538-1063

President Wayne L. Niederhauser, Co-Chair • Speaker Greg Hughes, Co-Chair
Senator Gene Davis • Senator Ralph Okerlund • Representative Brian S. King • Representative Brad R. Wilson

JOHN M. SCHAFF, CIA
AUDITOR GENERAL

April 13, 2018

Report No: ILR 2018-B

Wayne L. Niederhauser
Utah State Senate President
320 State Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Subject: Informal Poll of Utah Senate on United States Senate Candidates

President Niederhauser,

We have completed an informal poll of the Utah Senate on United States Senate Candidates as directed by Senate Resolution 1 (SR1) from the 2012 General Session. A copy of the Senate Rule can be found in the Appendix.

We distributed invitations to the ballot required by SR1 by email to each Senator. The actual poll was generated using survey software purchased by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel which anonymously collected Senator responses over the course of two weeks.

During those two weeks, 18 of the 29 Senators took the poll. The question asked in the informal poll was “Who is your preferred candidate for United States Senate?” The results are as follows:

Candidate	Count
Mitt Romney (R)	16
Jenny Wilson (D)	2

Although we did not ask for any explanation of votes, we did offer Senators an opportunity to decline to participate and to share their reasons why. None of the respondents selected the “decline to participate” option.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John M. Schaff, CIA
Auditor General

Appendix

SR1-9-101. Informal poll on United States Senate candidates.

- (1) In a year where there is an election for a seat in the United States Senate, the Senate shall conduct an informal poll of their members to determine each member's preferred candidate for each seat that is up for election.
- (2) The poll required by this section shall:
 - (a) be conducted and completed within 30 days of the last day for filing for the office of United States Senator, as provided in Utah Code Section 20A-9-202;
 - (b) be voluntary on the part of each senator;
 - (c) be administered by the legislative auditor general, who shall:
 - (i) establish procedures and conduct the poll in a manner that assures that the poll is conducted fairly and accurately; and
 - (ii) act subject to the direction of the Audit Subcommittee;
 - (d) have a ballot containing the name of each person who has declared candidacy for the seat as of the conclusion of the last day for filing plus an option to select "none of the above"; and
 - (e) be conducted by secret ballot.
- (3) Immediately after conducting the poll, the legislative auditor general shall make the results of the poll public by listing, for each seat that is up for election, the total number of votes cast for each candidate.