

**Comments at Keep My Voice Hearing
Monday, February 5, 2018
Draper City Library**

The Meeting was called to Order by David Pyne, Regional Directors for Keep My Voice. A prayer was offered by Fred Cox and the pledge was led by Patti Bateman.

David Pyne addressed a group of 12 people, explaining a bit about the Keep My Voice Initiative and our goals, as an organization. He then turned some time of to Cherilyn Bacon Eagar. A synopsis of her remarks are below.

“Count My Vote (CMV) is a threat to the First Amendment right to freely associate. The Framers guaranteed the right to a republican form of government in Article 4 Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. They despised democracy and set up a vertical checks and balance in how candidates for President, the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives are elected so that power could not be consolidated to create a dictatorship.

CMV sets a dangerous precedent that gives power to a state legislature to interfere in the business of a private corporation, a religious denomination or other private entity to dictate how its members are selected, how its leaders are chosen and what it believes.

No election system other than a caucus-convention allows neighbors to get together and deliberate the issues and the candidates and then elect a representative to vet all the candidates closely and recommend the best choice.

Anyone can attend a caucus, or talk to a neighbor and suggest who they want to represent them, and get to know the candidates closely. Yet Count My Vote falsely claims that the caucus system limits the number of people who can participate. CMV portrays the caucus as exclusionary. As a member of the Republican Party State Central Committee she has watched the few who favor CMV's dual track system advocate limiting the number of delegates that will represent the people.

She has lived in several states – California, Texas, Connecticut and in the Chicago area. She has experienced the different forms of election and how they impact the outcome. CMV and SB 54 are the Connecticut dual track. Signature gathering in Connecticut encourages voter fraud. It's costly because county clerks must spend additional time counting and verifying thousands of signatures per candidate.

It requires a costly primary with most likely a plurality result as opposed to a majority, as the Founders desired. It likely requires an additional election runoff amongst the many candidates that will not get a majority, which happened in the recent special election for U.S. House of

Representatives. Conversely, historically Utah's caucus system statistically shows a balance of about 50% nominations from convention to the general election ballot and primary run offs.

The dual track allows candidates not involved in the political party or who have a history of supporting the platforms of other political parties to run in on an opposing party ballot line and win, which happened in that special election in 2017. A former county Democrat party vice chair won that election through high name ID and buying expensive media. It was not won by the people.

CMV claims that the caucus elects extremists, but that is proven false by looking at the very people a caucus has elected. Only one of Utah's six federal delegation rates 100% on a conservative, constitutional score card. The others rate in the 60-70% levels. Hardly extremist. Take a look at a key conservative policy – Pro-Life. Utah ranks in the middle of the pack among the states – between 26 and 29 depending on the rating. Hardly extremist. It has a governor that supports Common Core nationalized education rather than local control, and Medicaid expansion, a key component of nationalized health care that a conservative governor named Ronald Reagan once called socialized medicine.

CMV favors the rich, famous and the incumbent with elections bought and won by media, propaganda and the candidates with the most money. The donations from Mitt Romney, who donated \$150,000 to defeat the caucus, and other elitists who joined him to control and buy elections in Utah at amounts of \$25,000 and \$50,000 each do not represent the people. They represent their own special interests.

As a former candidate for U.S. Senate and U.S. Congress in 2010 and 2012 she would never have been able to be on that stage with equal standing along with the other candidates because she was a newcomer – little name recognition, not a multimillionaire. Because of the caucus, she was part of that process and helped unseat a career politician, a powerful incumbent U.S. Senator during the convention cycle. This powerful man approached her in his moment of impending defeat and begged for her endorsement because he needed her votes to make it through the next round. This is the power of the caucus system that the powerful want to destroy.

CMV is the revenge of a small group of elitists that lost that day. They are determined to destroy liberty for all because their power structure was defeated that day to elect a fresh, new voice who would represent the people's desire limit the power of the federal government.

As a member of the State Central Committee, she read and researched the 2013 legal brief that threatened the Republican Party with a lawsuit and that called the caucus system unconstitutional. It was written by a group of DC lobbyists from Caplan and Drysdale, a firm that has no interest in the principles for which the Republican Party stands but only that process that supports the re-election of incumbents because an incumbent, career politician is the life blood of the corrupt lobbyist culture in Washington DC that is now called The Swamp.

The Keep My Voice initiative is needed at this time to counter the damage that County My Vote is doing to destroy the First Amendment Constitutional right to freely assemble. She asked the people of Utah to get involved and to support this measure.

David Pyne wrapped up what was said and then opened up a discussion period during which time the audience fielded questions and made remarks.

First to ask question was Steve Van Maren of Sandy.

Fred Cox took some time to talk about one of the major flaws in the Count My Vote 2.1 Initiative. He told us that the dates for Caucus meeting will be moved up to mid February and that our County Conventions would be early in March. He referred us to an Op-Ed that he had written on the topic.

Following Chris Null spoke about leaving the Party in California because of the political climate there. When he moved to Utah he attended his first caucus meeting and was elected that night. He was thrilled with the level of participation the caucus system afforded him. Since then he has served in several positions in the party.

Ron Hilton was also in attendance. He talked about his political experiences he's had in the state and his affinity for doing polls. His research suggests that it might be wise for Keep My Voice to amend its initiative to allow for more than one primary, whittling down the field to two candidates, rather than allowing multiple candidates to split the vote in the November elections.

Janalee Tobias shared with us her experience in running for an office in Utah. She said had it not been for the Caucus/Convention System she could never have afforded to run for office. Her experience was a positive one even though she was ultimately defeated.

Mac Sims also spoke that evening. He defended delegates as not being extreme, citing the fact that as delegates interview candidates running for office their opinions change. Delegates come from all over the state, from every occupation, and every political persuasion. They don't arrive at convention with one mind set.

There were others in attendance who made no comments. They included Kyle Water, whose comments were designed to ensure that the remarks made were strictly in line with the constitution, Elizabeth Van Maren, and Patti Bateman.