

Tim Bridgewater's Announcement Speech

October 22, 2009

Today I am announcing my formal candidacy for the United States Senate seat currently occupied by Senator Bob Bennett. At the outset, let me say that Bob Bennett is a nice guy and has done some good things while in office.

But I'm willing to challenge Bob because I think that spending too much time in Washington can distort your view of the world, and I think most Utah Republicans agree with me.

I'm challenging Bob because I think that 18 years in the Senate is long enough. Too much time in Washington will allow anyone to get too cozy and too comfortable with the go-along-to-get-along attitude of the United States Senate. Again, most Utahns agree.

I'm challenging Bob because Washington D.C. is a train wreck. They seem to have lost all sense of reason, growing government programs with reckless abandon, spending this country into oblivion and strapping future generations with crippling debt. I think many of the Republicans in Washington are just as guilty of this recklessness as the Democrats, and I say it's time to throw them out! It's time to cut our losses. It's time for a fresh start. And I know most Utahns agree with that.

I'm challenging Bob because the people here in Utah are ready for something new: bold ideas, a new perspective, and a willingness to stand up and halt the runaway spending in Washington.

I'm running because enough is enough.

I'm running for the sake of future generations.

I'm running because it's time for a "change" and the "change" we got from 2008 was without question the wrong kind of change!

Now, as I consider the difficult task of taking on an incumbent Senator, I do so knowing that he will raise more money, he will have more high profile endorsements, and he will have more campaign staff.

But Utahns, and other Americans across this great country aren't buying the snake oil from Washington anymore, and all the money in DC can't buy back the trust of the voters.

I'm sure Bob will make the argument that his 18 years in office has bought Utah the power of seniority, with plumb committee assignments, and that Utah cannot afford to lose that seniority.

But I say it is this seniority that we can no longer afford to keep. The Senator is steeped in the old ways of doing business in Washington. Of trading Democrat spending, earmarks and pork projects for Republican spending, earmarks and pork projects.

This election will be about the Past versus the Future. It's about a federal government that's controlled by special interests with their hands in the cookie jar, versus common citizens fighting for an end to the catastrophic spending patterns of the past.

It will be about an establishment candidate with endorsements from high and mighty Republicans, versus a passionate and organized grass roots electorate desperate for a change in the direction that our country is heading.

As a nation, we are on a perilous path, a very dangerous path, a path that is weakening the greatest country and greatest economy the world has ever known. Entrepreneurial capitalism has generated unlimited opportunity in this country. It has made possible the American dream of getting an education, having a good job, raising a family, and owning an affordable home. But entrepreneurial capitalism, the backbone of our nation, has now been made the scapegoat for problems that were, in reality, caused by government mismanagement and excess. This trend should be alarming to us all.

I am 48 years old. 65% of Americans are younger than I am. 78% of Utahns are younger than I am. Washington's spending is bankrupting generations to come because there is no fiscal restraint on the part of either party in Washington. We are borrowing from their future to cover the sins of the past. "If you get something, I get more!" goes the attitude of the past. But now we see the impact of a generation of out of control government waste, abuse and irresponsible spending.

Our currency is weaker, and foreign nations no longer want to invest in the US dollar as a safe haven. Our economy is more dependent on China's purchase of our debt than on our own manufacturing base. Over 500 billion dollars per year will be spent just to pay interest on the debt now approaching 12 Trillion dollars. When an individual or company borrows too much and can't pay, disaster looms. When our nation borrows too much to sustain its reckless habits, then wealth evaporates or flees the country. Prices rise, the government prints more money and our personal savings evaporate overnight. We need a new generation of public servants who are not afraid to say "No" to these destructive habits of the past.

Every day, men and women work hard to eke out an honest living. Here in my old neighborhood, blue collared workers fight to give the best opportunities possible to their children. When I was young, every parent knew that their children would have it better than they did. For the first time in our history, parents now believe that their children will have a more difficult, more challenging future than they have had. WE MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO CHANGE THIS PERILOUS COURSE. That is one of the reasons I am running for the Senate. We must stand up now or face the consequences of our inaction later.

It is time to rethink how we govern if we are to find a way out of the train wreck of irresponsible government spending. We the people must wrestle back the power to guide our country away from those in Washington who have lost sight of their job – to represent us and to strengthen the nation.

The way out is NOT to establish government control over banking, automobile manufacturing, healthcare, etc. A successful future for our nation requires that government focus on spending less, and we as individuals do more for ourselves. We must trust in our local communities, in our state leaders and in the private sector (however imperfect) to solve problems, not the heavy hand of a distant Washington bureaucracy.

The old Washington way of doing things is dumping thousands of pages of confused text into an unreadable bill meant to comprehensively overhaul a medical system that is already the best in the world, and which works well for nearly 80% of Americans. That's not to say that our current system is perfect, but we can do simple and efficient things that will strengthen our healthcare system and the nation without having government take over arenas that properly belong in the private sector. For example, I would propose four separate, simple, short bills to deal with healthcare:

Number 1. Allow competition across state lines for insurance providers, so that the most competitive programs can win in the marketplace.

Number 2. Curtail frivolous lawsuits by capping non-economic damages and requiring accusers in frivolous lawsuits to pay all legal costs.

Number 3. Utilize technology to streamline the delivery and coordination of medical services in order to cut costs.

Number 4. Use tax incentives to bolster health savings accounts and thus reward healthy lifestyles and responsible decision making for all citizens.

Over the next few months, our campaign will reach out to Republicans, Independents and even Democrats to enlist their support in returning to a responsible representative government. A government which teaches self reliance and provides an environment where individuals, small businesses, and communities can succeed without support from and dependence on Washington's money changers. By the end of the year we will have 1000 volunteers to build our organization—volunteers who are committed to the future of a healthy and self-reliant country with limited and constitutional government restored. I will cover thousands of miles and see thousands of citizens of this great state, and I will make our case to cut government spending, restore the proper role of government, and to reverse the anti-capitalist sentiment in Washington today.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan said this:

We know that the secret of America's success has been our drive to excel, a spirit born and nurtured by our families. With their dreams and hard work, they've built our nation, made her great, and kept her good. Everything we've accomplished began in those bedrock values parents have sought to impart throughout history---values of faith in God, honesty, caring for others, personal responsibility, thrift, and initiative.

But families cannot prosper and keep America strong if government becomes a Goliath that preys upon their wealth, usurps their rights, and crushes their spirit. For too many years, overgrown government has stood in your way, taking more and more of what you earned, no matter how hard you tried.

These words of Ronald Reagan have never been more relevant than they are for us today.

This is my home where I learned hard work from my mom who stands with me today. I learned honesty and responsibility from a stepfather who worked everyday as a diesel mechanic at Wheeler Machinery. As a small businessman who has enjoyed the American Dream, it is my responsibility to see that the future of the children from this neighborhood and every neighborhood offers hope for tomorrow's opportunities and challenges.

Join me in starting to build the momentum we will need to not only win the election, but to reverse the way Washington is squandering the wealth and future of our nation. We can and must change course so that our children and generations to come will thank us for delivering to them a nation filled with strength, opportunity, and the promise of a brighter future.

I'm Tim Bridgewater and I'm running for the United States Senate!

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