

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SALT LAKE**  
**2023 MAYORAL QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**ROCKY ANDERSON RESPONSES**

**Help us understand the type of leader you will be by describing your two highest priorities for change in our city - for both the short and long term.**

Health & Safety –I will protect residents, businesses, and homeless people by (1) eliminating encampments and providing a sanctioned camp, transitioning people to treatment and housing; (2) enforcing laws and diverting offenders to treatment when possible; and (3) building adequate housing for homeless people. Fairness and Inclusiveness –The growing disparity in income and wealth, as well as bigotry, undermines health, safety, and happiness. I created an after-school and summer program, Youth City. If elected mayor, I will implement an affordable city-wide 24/7 childcare program. We will once again create innovative opportunities for diverse people to enjoy community-building events, such as the restored SLC International Jazz Festival. Although this year's record breaking snowpack has improved lake and reservoir levels, drought conditions persist.

**Given the situation, what steps do you propose the council undertake to further address the situation and incentivize water conservation?**

I would stop financially punishing people who engage in different water uses from winter to summer and, instead, return to the progressive incremental water rates I implemented as mayor. I would not allow watering the turf at Washington Square during rainstorms. We should, through aggressive public education and example, create a personal and societal ethic of water conservation. Although laudable, local conservation efforts will not be sufficient to protect the Great Salt Lake from

devastating desiccation, which would cause public health and economic disasters to the Salt Lake City region. We must all push to end alfalfa farming in Utah, which uses 68% of available water that would otherwise go to the Great Salt Lake, yet adds a mere 0.2% to Utah's economy. We must demand that the state and federal governments end alfalfa farming in areas where water would otherwise flow to the Great Salt Lake and subsidize the transition to far less water-intensive uses of alfalfa farms.

**What do you see as the Mayor's role in ensuring affordable, multi-family housing for residents earning at or below area median income? Describe your strategies or policies to address this.**

SLC housing has never been so unaffordable. We need to take a radically different, far more effective approach to providing affordable housing for people at all income levels. Currently, the city subsidizes, with millions of dollars of public money, the profit-driven private developers who build mostly unaffordable housing in a market that constantly leaves people housing-insecure because of constantly rising prices. Non-market housing is a proven means for cities to control rents for the long-term, assuring tenants or buyers they will not be at risk of losing their housing due to the increasing market. That has been the norm in many nations and is being implemented more and more in the U.S. To remove housing from the perils of uncontrolled markets, cities can treat affordable housing as a public good—building the housing itself (or through non-profit organizations) and making it mixed-income, affordable for people at every income level, and architecturally stunning.

**What zoning policies do you think the council should explore in order to support better access to housing and public transit with your city?**

I disagree with governmental disregard for the character of so many neighborhoods, west-side and east-side, especially when better alternatives, like non-market housing,

are not being pursued. The city could be building several architecturally stunning tall buildings, with appropriate density and surrounding open spaces, where rents would be much lower because there would be no profit margin and rent would be controlled by the city/owner. A relatively small part of SLC's area is zoned for residential use. Many areas should be re-zoned for residential use and the city should build housing—both for rent and for ownership—and remove it from the ravages of the market. Nothing should be built in SLC that is not eventually transit-oriented, which would mean providing mass transit accessible for every area of the city. Also, parking minimums should not be required. Each housing project would be evaluated by the builder as to whether it would be marketable with little or no parking.

**As a local official, what tools do you think are at your disposal to give the local community a voice on issues that are largely controlled at the state level?**

People who are paid anything close to the minimum wage cannot afford to live in SLC. Utah is one of only 20 states that have not raised the minimum wage—unchanged since 2009—above \$7.25. A 2021 report calculated that in Utah one had to make \$20.21 per hour to afford a two-bedroom rental unit without paying more than 30% of that person's income toward rent. With our minimum wage, one would have to work 92 hours per week to afford a one-bedroom rental. We should persuade the Legislature and those with influence over it to significantly increase the minimum wage. More affordable housing would be available in SLC if the Legislature did not prohibit cities from enacting an inclusive zoning ordinance. Also, almost 20% of the area of the city would be available for housing if the Legislature had not designated it as the Inland Port. We should seek from the Legislature its allowance of inclusive zoning and parts of the Inland Port for affordable housing.