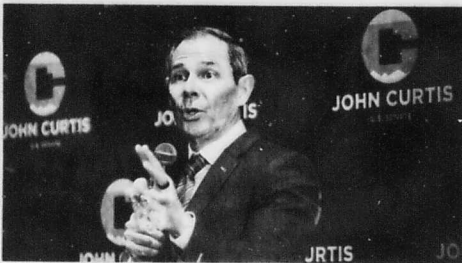


## UTAH PRIMARY • JUNE 25



JOHN CURTIS



TRENT STAGGIS



BRAD WILSON



JASON WALTON

Clockwise from top left ▶ John Curtis, Trent Staggis, Brad Wilson and Jason Walton are vying in the June 25 Utah Primary for the Republican nomination to fill Mitt Romney's U.S. Senate seat.

## Senate

**Question #1 ▶ With the Dobbs decision, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and left abortion policy to individual states. As a member of Congress, would you support a national abortion ban? Why or why not?**

**John Curtis ▶** I am pro-life and proud to have an A+ voting record from the Susan B. Anthony list. This topic is deeply personal to many Americans, and we should approach it with compassion and understanding for all diverse perspectives, particularly as we see the implementation of state abortion laws. That said, I have supported pro-life legislation that is broadly supported across the country, including preventing taxpayer-funded abortion, protecting babies that are born alive during an attempted abortion, and nationally banning abortion after the child is capable of feeling pain.

**Trent Staggis ▶** I believe in federalism and states' rights. I also believe abortion is murder in the overwhelming majority of cases and murder should be illegal federally.

**Jason Walton ▶** I'm pro-life. I believe life begins at conception. I agree with the recent Supreme Court Decision overturning Roe v. Wade and sending the regulation of abortion to the States where it currently constitutionally belongs. In theory, I would support a constitutional amendment that protects the sanctity of life if done properly. However, I do not believe any constitutional amendment that could get two-thirds support of each house and three-quarters of the states would protect the sanctity of life stronger than Utah's laws can protect it.

**Brad Wilson ▶** As [House] speaker in Utah, I fought to pass the strongest pro-life protections anywhere in the country and that's the approach I would take as Utah's next U.S. Senator. I'm unapologetically pro-life and would fight at the federal level to protect the unborn.

**Question #2 ▶ The Colorado River faces an uncertain future. Climate change has weakened the river's flows and overuse has siphoned its reservoirs. As the current guidelines for the operation of the Colorado River and its reservoirs will expire in 2026, the seven states that use the river's water have been hashing out what new guidelines will look like. Yes or no: Should Utah, an Upper Basin state, cut its Colorado River water use?**

**John Curtis ▶** Federal officials should allow the states to take the lead in pursuing a seven-state solution to the 2026 guideline revisions. Congress can and should support state and local efforts to optimize and improve water use efficiency. This can include preventing water leaks, agriculture technology improvements and voluntary conservation efforts. By living within the means of the river and by promoting sustainable reservoir operations, Utah can ensure our water users are protected as we continue to satisfy our compact obligations to the Lower Basin.

**Trent Staggis ▶** No, we have not used our share as is — and as the state with highest population growth, our farmers need access to that water. Water allocated to Utah under interstate compacts should be developed for use in Utah.

**Jason Walton ▶** No, Utah should not unilaterally cut our Colorado River water usage. We need a comprehensive plan for a workable long-term solution.

**Brad Wilson ▶** Absolutely not. As speaker of the [Utah] House, I passed landmark legislation to create the Utah Colorado River Authority, ensuring Utahns receive every single drop of water that belongs to them. Unlike the Lower Basin states — Arizona, California, and Nevada — Utah has historically not used our full allocation of water, as laid out under the Colorado River Compact. I will continue to fight to protect, utilize, and develop Utah's water resources because current and future generations depend on it.

**Question #3 ▶ How can Utah be part of the solution on the Colorado River?**

**John Curtis ▶** The state already takes cuts in the form of shortages which happen annually in Utah and the Upper Basin, generally.

**Trent Staggis ▶** Strong leadership in the [U.S.] Senate is required. One of the reasons the Senate is designed with equal suffrage among states is so that a big state like California can't overwhelm the rest of us on issues like this. I reject unfunded mandates relating to water quality regulations imposed by changes in law and law.

**Jason Walton ▶** To meet our needs, we must insist on stable water levels in Utah's reservoirs. Our goal must be to prevent the reservoirs' calamitous decline while protecting our current clean, hydropower generation levels and making sure Utah farmers, ranchers, and citizens get the water they need.

**Brad Wilson ▶** Passing legislation to create the Utah Colorado River Authority was a huge step in the right direction as Utah finally claimed its rightful seat at the table. However, it cannot end there. While there is no single solution to solving the perennial challenges of the Colorado River, Utah can lead out by finding the right balance between thoughtful stewardship and maximizing our resources. Such a complex issue demands a leader who will present innovative solutions and stand up for Utah's best interests. Just as I did as speaker of the House, I will continue to fight for our state's rights in the U.S. Senate, making sure we are a part of the conversation, not an afterthought.

**Question #4 ▶ How should Congress address immigration reform? What are some specific actions Congress should take toward solving this problem?**

**John Curtis ▶** My first-hand experience at the southern border provides valuable insight into the complex challenges that exist there, particularly concerning human trafficking and border security. The prevalence of human trafficking, often facilitated by criminal organizations like cartels, underscores the urgency of addressing border security issues. The observation of incomplete construction of the border wall highlights the need for consistent and effective measures to enhance border infrastructure and security. Balancing security needs with transparency and fairness in immigration processes is indeed a multifaceted task that requires careful consideration.

Most Americans agree about the necessity of a more secure border and the importance of implementing a system that effectively differentiates between those who seek to contribute positively to society and those who pose a threat. We must address security concerns while upholding principles of fairness and transparency.

**Trent Staggis ▶** It's long past time we incentivize upholding the law and penalize breaking it. Building the wall, reinstating "Remain in Mexico" [a Trump-era immigration policy] and E-Verify, and cutting taxpayer-funded benefits to non-citizens would be a simple start.

**Jason Walton ▶** Joe Biden needs to end his catch-and-release policy and implement a stay-in-Mexico policy for illegal aliens seeking asylum. The cost of human lives and the financial burden on the American taxpayer are disturbingly high. Our immigration policy should not reward people who immigrate illegally and punish those trying to immigrate lawfully. We can't let criminals, drug traffickers and terrorists cross the border with impunity. I support a robust immigration reform package that protects American values, safety and security — including finishing the wall.

**Brad Wilson ▶** The very first thing we need to do is repeal Joe Biden's open border policies and secure the border. Biden has created an unprecedented crisis on our southern border that could end today if we had politicians with the guts to stand up for common sense. That means bringing back "Remain in Mexico," finishing the wall, and hiring the additional border patrol personnel we need now. We have to pass House Resolution 2 [known in Congress as the "Secure the Border Act of 2023"] and stop the ridiculous taxpayer handouts that only incentivize more people to break the laws and come here illegally. We have to defend sanctuary cities, and those who've broken our laws to get here need to be sent back. In Utah, I led the strongest crackdown on illegal immigration in state history and fought Biden trying to designate Utah a sanctuary state — that's the leadership Utahns can expect from me in the Senate.

**Question #5 ▶ Yes or no: Do you agree with Sen. Mike Lee's claim that illegal immigrants are registering to vote in the U.S.?**

**John Curtis ▶** While it's clear there are non-citizens voting in local elections, federal elections typically have stricter regulations and safeguards in place to prevent non-citizens from voting, such as requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote. Concerns about non-citizens voting have led to ongoing discussions and efforts to strengthen election integrity measures. Efforts to address concerns should be grounded in data-driven solutions that promote transparency and accountability in the electoral system.

**Trent Staggis ▶** I believe it would be naive to think this isn't being attempted, especially with Democrats' history of demonstrating they want non-citizens to vote.

**Jason Walton ▶** Illegal immigrants are streaming into our country. Despite safeguards to stop them, illegal immigrants, in some cases, very likely swelling Democrat voter rolls, just like Joe Biden voters. In addition, illegal immigrants are counted in the census, so yes, even though they are not citizens, they influence the number of members each state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Electoral College.

**Brad Wilson ▶** Yes, and it isn't a matter of debate. In the District of Columbia and 16 cities across California, Maryland and Vermont, illegal aliens are not only registered to vote, but their city governments have recently passed legislation allowing them to do it.

**Question #6 ▶ More or less: Military aid for Ukraine?**

**John Curtis ▶** I mirror the understandable frustration in the lack of clarity and planning from the U.S. when it comes to Ukraine. Our objectives and plans aren't clear. This is why I supported legislation that requires the president to present a strategy that ensures accountability and transparency in addressing complex international issues. Hopefully, such measures will contribute to more

effective efforts to counter Putin's actions and support Ukraine's sovereignty.

**Trent Staggis ▶** None. We have no oversight and have given \$175 billion with almost no clue where it's been spent.

**Jason Walton ▶** Provide more intelligence support for Ukraine and more leadership in getting Europe to support Ukraine financially. But we can't afford to keep funding Ukraine. It makes no sense to defend Ukraine's borders while criminals, drugs, and terrorists are freely crossing our southern border. Moreover, the bloated spending on Ukraine threatens the value of our dollar and, consequently, our security.

**Brad Wilson ▶** Of course, we can't let Putin run roughshod over eastern Europe, but we cannot continue writing blank checks to finance wars with impunity. Americans deserve to know exactly what their taxpayer dollars are being spent on and where they are going. We do not have that transparency right now and we should demand better. That said, the biggest issue here is Biden's failed leadership on the world stage — our allies don't trust him and our enemies do not fear him. If Biden had had the courage to lead, we would never have been in this mess to begin with.

**Question #7 ▶ More or less: Military aid for Israel?**

**John Curtis ▶** Not only is Israel the only democracy in the region, a leader and partner in technological innovation and entrepreneurship, a land of significant religious importance, and one of our strongest security partners in the world, but Israel also stands as the embodiment of "Never again."

History has shown that one of the world's oldest but reds, antisemitism, continually rears its ugly head, leading to Jews being targeted of mob violence and state-sponsored violence. This culminated in its most horrific form during the Holocaust. Israel guarantees that never again will Jews be without a home. It serves as the ultimate safe haven for Jews worldwide, ensuring they always have a place of refuge and protection.

Supporting and ensuring the security and survival of the Jewish state is not only a strategic necessity but also a profound moral imperative.

**Trent Staggis ▶** We have a commitment made to Israel that must be fulfilled.

**Jason Walton ▶** In these troubling times, a strong Israel benefits America and stabilizes the Middle East. Israel needs to be supported with intelligence and, at times, financial aid on a case-by-case basis.

**Brad Wilson ▶** I support Israel in their efforts to completely eliminate Hamas. Israel is one of our strongest allies and we must stand strong against terrorism and antisemitism.

**Question #8 ▶ The United States has more than \$30 trillion of debt. Do you think the solution is reducing spending or increasing taxes?**

**John Curtis ▶** Since coming to Congress, I have opposed every omnibus spending bill that increased our debt and deficit. With interest on our debt nearly exceeding military spending, we are on the brink of a fiscal cliff. We need to look at all federal programs to determine if they are better handled at the state or local level. We need to take a closer look and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse. I am also a strong supporter of creating an independent fiscal commission to put together a plan to reduce the deficit and force

Photo by SENATE, NEXT PAGE